

Subject Leader Report 2024/25 - Music

Forefield Junior School is

P.R.O.U.D school built on **Passion** and **Respect**, where **Opportunities** can be seized by **Unique** and **Determined** learners.



PROUD to be FOREFIELD

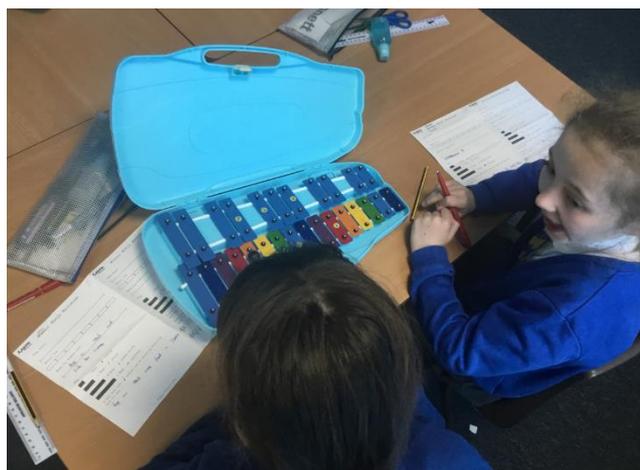
At Forefield Junior School, we know that children's learning in music is incredibly important because it supports development in ways that go far beyond learning songs. Through music, children build key skills like listening, memory, coordination, and language, while also strengthening their ability to concentrate and work with others. Making music helps children express emotions, build confidence, and develop creativity at an age when self-expression is still forming. It also supports social skills, as singing and playing together teach co-operation, respect, and a sense of belonging. Importantly, primary school musical experiences create positive associations with learning, laying strong foundations for both academic growth and emotional wellbeing. At Forefield Juniors, music continues to be a valued and integral part of the curriculum. It allows all learners to be creative and allows many to flourish and enjoy opportunities to perform and grow in confidence and self-esteem, as we aim for all children to enjoy and achieve.

Kapow Primary™



The school year 2024-25 was the third year of using the Kapow scheme for our curriculum music lessons, following the condensed programme, which covers all the objectives from the National Curriculum through four topics in each year group. The units of work cover all elements of music, including listening, composing, performing, the history of music and the inter-related dimensions of music. Years 3 and 4 also included instrumental units which are whole-class glockenspiel lessons, where children learn to read and write using standard musical (stave) notation.

In Year 3, children learnt about telling stories through song by learning about Ballads; focused on the instrumental unit, learning to play glockenspiels and read staff notation. Children learned about pentatonic melodies based around the theme of Chinese New Year, and improvised their own compositions around the theme of Indian music.



In Year 4, children continued their learning of glockenspiels, and also used percussion to investigate the sounds of the rainforest; discovered how samba and carnival music is performed and its importance around the world, and studied the way that musical motifs can be adapted and transposed to create variations in a melody.



In Year 5 this year, we introduced an alternative unit, planned and delivered by a tutor from Sefton Music Hub, Mr David Bowen. This involved each Y5 class spending a whole term learning from an expert tutor how to play African djembe drums. These lessons involved lots of aural and musical memory work, listening to rhythms and patterns, and replicating them to create different pieces of layered music, culminating in a concert to parents at the end of each term to demonstrate the children's learning across the topic.



In addition, year 5 children continued their learning on the glockenspiels, building on their prior learning of staff notation to read and perform pieces, and used percussion to investigate how graphic scores can be used to record sounds in an alternative way.

In Year 6, children learnt about film music, and created their own compositions to accompany film extracts; they learned about dynamics, pitch and tempo through studying the music of Fingal's Cave; they investigated how musical themes and variations are produced while linking this with their knowledge of pop art, and they studied the historical genre of Baroque music and its features.





At the end of the academic year, class teachers assessed 88% of pupils as working at the expected standard for their age group or above, with 7% of pupils exceeding those expectations.



Extra-curricular clubs and activities proved as popular as ever at Forefield, with many children taking up the opportunity to learn piano, guitar or drums with the private peripatetic teachers from Musical Minds. The Christmas production was a great success, with a great number of Year 3 and 4 pupils taking part in lunchtime and after school rehearsals to be part of 'A Dancing Christmas Party', culminating in a spectacular performance in front of their parents.



The school choir rehearsed extensively and performed in assemblies for the rest of the school at regular intervals. Once again, we took part in the Sefton schools' Diversity concert held at John Moore's University. The children went for a rehearsal on the day and performed fantastically in the evening as part of a huge celebration of music and performing arts in front of a very appreciative audience!



Year 5 and 6 had the opportunity to join an early morning bucket drumming session, learning to play many rhythms and patterns in time with popular songs – an invigorating way to start the day before school!



In the summer term, we showcased the musical talents from across the school: the choir performed brilliantly once more, this time alongside a lower junior choir too, with both choirs combining to perform some joint pieces. The instrumentalists of school had an opportunity to showcase their musical talents, with the recorder group playing, and many of the Musical Minds pupils performing solos and duets that they had been working hard on in their individual and small group lessons.



This year's Arts Week was once again a great success! The activities this year came from Sky Arts and Music and the Performing Arts played a large part in the week's activities. Each year group had a raft of musical experiences to take part in, with specific pieces of music to use for listening and appraising activities, along with the opportunities for singing and playing, composing and evaluating music work alongside the other arts within the wider Arts Week. Dance was incorporated into the week's timetable once again, with links being forged between expressive and performance arts.

The year ended with the Year Six Leavers' Celebration, marking the end of our eldest pupils' time at Forefield by culminating in a celebration of singing, dance and drama, showcasing the talents of our fabulous leaving pupils.



As a school we continue to strive to ensure our Pupil Guarantee aims are achieved, making sure our pupils have regular experiences of the arts, as an audience and as performers, enjoying a range of styles and influences.

PROUD

Passion, Respect, Opportunity, Unique, Determined

